In accordance with the provisions of Section 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code, I am pleased to submit the Annual Livestock and Agricultural Crop Report for 2013. This report is a summary of counts, acreage, yields, and gross value of agricultural production in Marin County. The 2013 gross value of all production was the highest value ever recorded $84,300,087. This represents an increase of $3,934,700, which is 4.9 percent higher than the 2012 total agricultural production value of $80,365,280. The report represents gross returns to the producer and does not indicate actual net profit.

Milk is the long standing, premier commodity for Marin, and this year accounts for 40.4 percent of the crop report’s total value. The average Market Milk Price for 2013 was higher than 2012, but a decrease in production contributed to a decrease in the overall milk value of $705,665.

In April, 2013 the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) launched an internet based system for all organic producers in California to register with their department. A result of this new system is a database that provides a much more complete dataset of agricultural production in Marin County. Historically, nearly all of the data for the Crop and Livestock report was provided voluntarily by producers and the level of participation potentially affected the data from year to year.

Poultry values greatly increased for 2013. The population increased by 96,656 individuals to over 258,000, making a 59 percent increase. The value of poultry production increased 89 percent or $5,844,244. These increases are a result of increased poultry production in Marin County and more complete data extracted from the CDFA Organic Registration Database.

Fruit and Vegetable value increased 74.4 percent from 2012. Harvested Acreage increased by 576 Acres, or 174 percent. Many of these increases are attributed to more complete data extracted from the CDFA Organic Registration Database.

My appreciation goes to the many growers, producers, individuals and organizations for their cooperation in providing the information necessary for this report. I would like to extend special thanks to members of my staff, especially Jeff Stiles and Kyle Lindstrom for their help in producing this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy K. Carlsen
Agricultural Commissioner
Director of Weights and Measures
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In recent years, the transition to organic agricultural production has been in the spotlight as the newest and most common trend in Marin County. Organic agriculture production has established itself as a key player in the practices and economics of farms and ranches in Marin County. As transition to organic agricultural production slows, partly due to many of the farms and ranches already receiving organic certification, a new trend in agricultural production is stealing the spotlight: egg production. The California Food and Agricultural Code requires any person engaged in business as an egg producer or handler in California to be registered, resulting in the number of these registrations in Marin County to double in 2013.

The majority of this new surge in egg production is from chickens raised on pasture. Chickens raised on pasture for the commercial production of eggs are typically kept in flocks associated with a mobile chicken coop. Mobile chicken coops are small buildings on wheels or skids that contain nesting boxes and perches. Each flock associated with a coop is kept near the coop by establishing a perimeter fence of portable mesh fencing. During the day, the birds are free to forage outside in the pasture. At night, the chickens take shelter in the mobile coop for protection and to nest and roost. Over time, the flock will consume the vegetation within the perimeter and, through natural foraging and dusting behaviors, scratch up the earth. Once this has occurred, the farmer will move the mobile coop, the flock associated with it, and the perimeter fence to the next pasture location. Allowing chickens access to pasture and the outdoors has been cited by producers to be beneficial for bird health. In addition, the foraging, scratching, and manure left by the birds improves pasture production quality and quantity.

Eggs from pasture raised chickens have different characteristics than eggs produced using conventional egg production methods. This, combined with the desire to purchase a local product, results in consumers who are willing to pay a premium price for these eggs. However, a premium price for eggs is only one of the multiple reasons egg producers have flocked to raising chickens on pasture. Some cattle-based ranches have stated they are looking to diversify farm production for economic stability. Also, adding egg production to existing cattle operations can increase agricultural production and allow for multiple family generations to derive an income from the ranch. Other producers see running pastured poultry in conjunction with cattle as part of an effort to make the farm function more like an ecological system.

The reasons for the sharp increase in Marin County’s egg production are varied and as unique as each of the county’s poultry operations. This new trend of resourcefulness and ingenuity by the farmers to continue to produce food products from Marin’s pasture resources has become a part of Marin’s continuing story of economic and environmental sustainability.
### AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION SUMMARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE OF PRODUCTION</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Livestock Products</td>
<td>$33,406,120</td>
<td>$34,114,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livestock</td>
<td>$29,747,943</td>
<td>$27,360,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Crops</td>
<td>$9,933,381</td>
<td>$9,240,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit, Grape, &amp; Vegetable Crops</td>
<td>$5,282,475</td>
<td>$3,754,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aquaculture</td>
<td>$5,532,431</td>
<td>$4,800,387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursery Crops</td>
<td>$397,737</td>
<td>$1,096,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AGRICULTURAL GROSS VALUE:</strong></td>
<td><strong>$84,300,087</strong></td>
<td><strong>$80,365,387</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Values provided by USDA switched units of measure from CWT (hundredweight) to HEAD for 2011.

The 2012 gross value of all agricultural production was **$84,300,087**. This represents an increase of approximately $3,934,700 (4.9%) from the 2012 agricultural production gross value.

This graph illustrates how the 2013 agricultural gross value breaks down across the various types of agricultural production.
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION GROSS VALUE  
TEN YEAR SUMMARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MARIN</th>
<th>NAPA</th>
<th>SONOMA*</th>
<th>SOLANO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Livestock, Livestock Products, &amp; Misc</td>
<td>$61,474,200</td>
<td>$3,709,500</td>
<td>$174,726,000</td>
<td>$63,425,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Crops</td>
<td>$9,240,300</td>
<td>$637,800</td>
<td>$12,833,900</td>
<td>$84,604,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit, Grape, and Vegetable Crops</td>
<td>$3,754,000</td>
<td>$657,293,200</td>
<td>$589,067,800</td>
<td>$144,279,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aquaculture</td>
<td>$4,800,100</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$1,605,343</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursery Crops</td>
<td>$1,096,400</td>
<td>$3,074,100</td>
<td>$33,471,300</td>
<td>$23,630,200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Aquaculture figure is based on 2009 data.
### LIVESTOCK AND AQUACULTURE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>NUMBER OF HEAD</th>
<th>$/UNIT</th>
<th>DOLLAR VALUE TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cattle &amp; Calves</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>13,056</td>
<td>$1,181</td>
<td>$15,419,136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>15,144</td>
<td>$1,253</td>
<td>$18,976,492</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep &amp; Lambs</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>10,575</td>
<td>$188</td>
<td>$1,988,147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>9,121</td>
<td>$176</td>
<td>$1,605,320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poultry*</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>258,006</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$12,340,660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>161,350</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$6,496,416</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aquaculture</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Oysters, Mussels, &amp; Clams</td>
<td>$5,532,431</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Oysters, Mussels, &amp; Clams</td>
<td>$4,800,387</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td></td>
<td>$35,280,374</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2012</td>
<td></td>
<td>$32,160,615</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Poultry 2010 figures include poultry fryers and chicken eggs for consumption.

### LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>PRODUCTION</th>
<th>$ / CWT</th>
<th>DOLLAR VALUE TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Milk~ (Market)</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>1,386,889</td>
<td>$24.06</td>
<td>$33,368,549</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>1,522,529</td>
<td>$22.38</td>
<td>$34,074,204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk~ (Manufacturing)</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>251</td>
<td>$19.92</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>$22.72</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool~</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>46,531</td>
<td>$.70</td>
<td>$32,571</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>60,442</td>
<td>$0.61</td>
<td>$36,870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td></td>
<td>$33,406,120</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2012</td>
<td></td>
<td>$34,114,074</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Due to unavoidable computational rounding, the Dollar Value Total value is overestimated by less than 0.01%.

Photo by William Quirt, Courtesy of Marin County UC Cooperative Extension, Farm Advisor.
INVENTORIES OF LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMODITY</th>
<th>HEAD</th>
<th>NUMBER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Cattle*</td>
<td>33,000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk cows &amp; heifers (2 years and over)</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beef cows &amp; heifers (2 years and over)</td>
<td>8,200</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep and Lambs, all†</td>
<td>10,600</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poultry</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>258,006</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Number of Head as of January 1, 2012.
† Includes cows, heifers, calves, and bulls.

FIELD, FRUIT AND VEGETABLE CROPS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMODITY</th>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>HARVESTED ACREAGE</th>
<th>TON / ACRE</th>
<th>TOTAL TONS</th>
<th>$ / TON</th>
<th>DOLLAR VALUE TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hay†~</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>1,600</td>
<td>2.73</td>
<td>4,368</td>
<td>$168.00</td>
<td>$737,481</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>2,013</td>
<td>2.40</td>
<td>4,831</td>
<td>$114.40</td>
<td>$552,670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silage~</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>1,213</td>
<td>12.38</td>
<td>15,016</td>
<td>$38.33</td>
<td>$575,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>1,571</td>
<td>13.72</td>
<td>21,554</td>
<td>$43.71</td>
<td>$942,125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pasture, Irrigated</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>810</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$100.00</td>
<td>$81,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>810</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$100.00</td>
<td>$81,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pasture, Other</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>154,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$55.45</td>
<td>$8,539,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>154,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$49.77</td>
<td>$7,664,580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruits &amp; Vegetables*</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>906</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$55.45</td>
<td>$4,408,665</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>330</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$49.77</td>
<td>$2,527,166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grapes, Wine</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>175</td>
<td></td>
<td>306</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>186</td>
<td></td>
<td>387</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$15,215,856</td>
<td>$12,994,405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2012</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

† Values include Grass Hay, Oat Hay, Oat Seed, and Vetch Seed.
~ Due to unavoidable computational rounding, the Dollar Value Total is overestimated by less than 0.01%.
* Following the National Agricultural Statistics Service for Acreage Harvested, acreage harvested and planted repeatedly during the year is counted each time. Harvested Acreage for 2013 Fruit & Vegetables represents 265 actual Acres.
**NURSERY STOCK, ALL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Production Acreage</th>
<th>Dollar Value Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>8.02</td>
<td>$397,737</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>5.06</td>
<td>$1,096,743</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>6.10</td>
<td>$1,004,764</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>6.25</td>
<td>$991,983</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Phytosanitary Certificates were issued for Marin-grown nursery products shipped internationally to: Canada, China, Fiji, and Japan.
DEPARTMENTAL MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to serve the public’s interest by ensuring equity in the market place as well as promoting and protecting agriculture, environmental quality, and the overall health and welfare of Marin County’s citizens.

Following is a description of the Department’s agricultural activities:

PEST PREVENTION

Pest prevention encompasses several activities aimed at preventing the introduction and spread of exotic pests in Marin County. Pest exclusion focuses on preventing the entry and establishment of exotic pests and limiting the intrastate movement of newly discovered pests. Marin County inspectors monitor all primary pathways of pest entry into the county including nurseries and points of entry such as UPS and FedEx. Pest detection is the systematic search for exotic pests outside a known infested area. The goal is to find infestations of harmful exotic pests as early as possible and eradicate them before eradication becomes biologically or economically infeasible.

PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

The Department operates a Pesticide Use Enforcement program that includes a permitting process for restricted materials as well as education and assistance for pesticide users. While reviewing, collecting and analyzing data and records associated with pesticide sales and use, our Department also monitors pesticide use applications, investigates pesticide-related citizen complaints, and conducts pesticide-related illness investigations. The ultimate goal of this program is to ensure the safe and effective use of pest control methods in order to protect public health and the environment, while strongly promoting the production of healthy, safe food and fiber through sustainable practices.

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

Integrated pest management (IPM) is a common-sense approach to pest management that uses a variety of methods and tools to control pests. IPM programs focus on preventing pest problems through cultural and biological measures, although pesticides may be part of an IPM program. The goal is to eliminate or reduce pesticide applications wherever possible and take reasonable measures to ensure that the long-term prevention or suppression of pests has minimal negative impact on human health, non-target organisms, and the environment.

PRODUCT QUALITY

Marin County inspectors protect consumers by inspecting agricultural products for compliance with laws, regulations, and standards. They also ensure that businesses are afforded a fair and equitable opportunity to market their products. Inspections are conducted at horticultural nurseries, farmers’ markets, organic farms, and locations selling wholesale and retail eggs.
SUMMARY OF OUR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES

MARIN ORGANIC CERTIFIED AGRICULTURE (MOCA) AND REGISTERED ORGANIC FARMS

The Marin County Agricultural Commissioner’s Office is accredited by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) as an official organic certification agency. Marin Organic Certified Agriculture (MOCA) serves the local agricultural community growers who are employing organic farming practices. Organic production systems strive to achieve agro-ecosystems that are ecologically, socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable. Organic farming emphasizes a greater cooperation with nature without reliance on synthetic inputs.

Consumer demand for certified organic products is increasing, with an expectation by consumers that organic products are verifiable. MOCA was developed to provide a professional service to local individual and business operations engaged in the production and distribution of organically grown commodities. The primary responsibility of MOCA is to uphold the standards of the USDA National Organic Program, and document/verify operations’ practices of sustainable agriculture. One of the most important benefits of the MOCA program is as a local service that promotes the production of organic value-added products by Marin’s family farms. In 2013, the number of MOCA certified operations in Marin and Sonoma Counties was 56 operators, including 1 processor.

All organic producers in California must register in their principal county of operation. There are 66 registered organic producers in Marin County, farming 40,632 acres, which includes 40,367 acres in pasture, producing a total gross value of approximately $45,960,415.

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

Biological pest control is the use of pests’ natural enemies to help suppress pest populations to economically and environmentally acceptable levels. Once the agent becomes established, control is generally self-perpetuating, potentially eliminating or reducing the need to use pesticides. The following are pests found in Marin and some of the methods that have been used to control them.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PEST</th>
<th>BIOLOGICAL AGENT/MECHANISM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gorse</td>
<td>Gorse Mite, Seed Weevil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bull Thistle</td>
<td>Bull Thistle Gall Fly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow Star Thistle</td>
<td>Seed Head Weevil, Gall Fly, Hairy Weevil, Peacock Fly, Rust –</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Puccinia jaceae var. solstitialis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scotch Broom</td>
<td>Seed Weevil, Stem Boring Moth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ash White Fly</td>
<td>Parasitic Wasp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italian Thistle</td>
<td>Seed Weevil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purple Star Thistle</td>
<td>Seed Weevil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Klamath Weed</td>
<td>Beetle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eucalyptus Red Gum Lerp Psyllid</td>
<td>Parasitic Wasp</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LIVESTOCK PROTECTION PROGRAM

The Marin County Board of Supervisors has continued to support and appropriate funds to the Livestock Protection Program depredation prevention. Recognized non-lethal control methods such as protection animals (llamas, livestock guardian dogs, etc.), electric fencing, scare devices, and herd shepherding are initiated through cost share funds to livestock ranchers. The Department administers verification inspections for cost share funding for ranchers participating in this program.
PEST PREVENTION PROGRAMS

PEST DETECTION
In 2013, inspectors from the Marin County Department of Agriculture and the California Department of Food and Agriculture placed and serviced 1,013 traps for exotic insect pests. The targeted pests included: Mediterranean Fruit Fly, Oriental Fruit Fly, Melon Fly, Gypsy Moth, Japanese Beetle, Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter (GWSS), Light Brown Apple Moth, and False Codling Moth. Traps are strategically placed within the county on or near preferred hosts. For example, GWSS traps were placed in nurseries, vineyards, and urban areas; Mediterranean Fruit Fly traps were placed in fruit trees; Gypsy Moth traps were placed on hardwood trees; and Japanese Beetle traps were placed in urban landscaped areas.

PEST EXCLUSION
In 2013, inspectors conducted 1,468 incoming plant quarantine inspections. Plant shipments were monitored at Federal Express, UPS, nurseries, ethnic markets, aquatic supply stores, and post entry quarantine sites. The Department performed 70 Gypsy Moth inspections of household goods from infested states, as well as 1,427 Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter inspections on plant material from infested California counties. Twenty nine rejections of plant material were made to protect Marin’s agriculture and environment.

LIGHT BROWN APPLE MOTH
In early 2007, Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM), *Epiphyas postvittana*, was confirmed in Alameda County, California. This represented the first time LBAM had been detected in the contiguous 48 States. Currently the infestation occupies 15 counties, compared to 17 counties in 2011.

Other countries and States want to keep this pest out. Some foreign countries have enacted quarantines and restrictions on crops and plants grown in the 15 counties infested with LBAM. LBAM is not established in the rest of the lower 48 states, many of these states have imposed restrictions on plant, fruit, and vegetable movement from California. Quarantines, and added restrictions, adversely impact the marketing and movement of California agricultural and horticultural products.

Marin County, working in cooperation with the CDFA/USDA LBAM Cooperative Program, continues to manage and control LBAM through detection traps, visual inspections of nurseries located in the quarantine boundary, and education of nursery owners and farmers. Production nurseries that ship plants out of the quarantine areas are required to follow “Best Management Practices”, including regular monitoring for LBAM.

More information on LBAM may be found at: [www.cdfa.ca.gov/lbam](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/lbam)
GLASSY-WINGED SHARPSHOOTER

The Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter (GWSS), Homalodisca vitripennis, is a very serious pest to California agriculture. First observed in the state around 1990 and now found throughout Southern California and portions of the San Joaquin Valley, GWSS is a particular threat to vineyards due to its ability to spread Xylella fastidiosa, the bacterium that causes Pierce’s disease in grapevines. Pierce’s disease is lethal to grapevines and significant resources are committed annually to find effective treatments. GWSS also spreads other diseases to a variety of agricultural and ornamental plants, having the potential to substantially impact California’s agriculture and environment if left unchecked.

To prevent the introduction of this leafhopper into Marin County, Department staff inspect incoming nursery plant shipments containing GWSS hosts from infested California counties. In 2013, a total of 1,427 shipments were inspected for GWSS, with no finds. Detection traps are strategically placed throughout the county to monitor for this unwanted pest.

SUDDEN OAK DEATH

Marin County continues to be infested with Sudden Oak Death (SOD), the disease caused by the pathogen Phytophthora ramorum. Increased infestations have been detected in West Marin. Tree mortality in wildland and urban/wild land interface areas causes dramatic changes in the landscape, affecting ecosystems, increasing fire and safety hazards, and decreasing property values.

P. ramorum hosts include native woodland trees and understory plants, and ornamental nursery plants. Currently there are over 100 native and ornamental hosts; new hosts continue to be found and added to the state and federal quarantines.

Dominican University has established a research center to study the disease and identify treatments for nurseries to facilitate movement of nursery stock.

On oaks, P. ramorum causes potentially lethal trunk cankers; on other hosts it causes leaf or twig blight, which is rarely lethal. Tanoaks may have both trunk cankers and leaf dieback. Unlike oaks, some hosts (i.e., California Bay Laurel) are not killed by this pathogen; instead these hosts act as a vector, allowing inoculum to spread through natural or artificial means (i.e., rainwater, soil, infested nursery stock) under moist conditions.

Prevention is the only treatment to protect trees from Phytophthora ramorum. Best preventative practices include keeping trees healthy so they maintain their natural defenses, pruning overstory California Bay Laurels, and utilizing phosphonate treatment products.

The California Oak Mortality Task Force (COMTF) was established in 2000 to conduct research and understand SOD. More information, including diagnostic guides and management recommendations, may be found at www.suddenoakdeath.org.
INVASIVE WEED MANAGEMENT

PROPOSED 10-YEAR INVASIVE WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR MARIN COUNTY

Noxious and invasive weeds have become an extremely serious, challenging, and widespread issue in Marin County, especially over the past two decades. Several different species of injurious weeds have become established in Marin County and have rendered thousands of acres of pastureland, rangeland, and natural areas unusable, increased the risk of wildfires, and successfully outcompeted numerous native plant species. It will take the combined effort, cooperation, and collaboration of numerous organizations, ranchers, and private landowners to successfully manage (and hopefully eradicate many of) these damaging weeds from Marin County. In preparing this draft plan, the Department has worked diligently to forge productive partnerships and build confidence with industry, community groups, and various other interested stakeholders through a collaborative and inclusive approach.

The centerpiece of this proposed plan will be education and outreach to landowners about best land management practices (e.g., grazing, soil heath, native forage restoration, early detection and rapid response to invasive weeds, carbon sequestration, etc.). These land management practices will help protect productive land that is currently free of invasive weeds. They will also fortify soil health, increase soil water retention capabilities, and encourage biodiversity. Landowners will be provided practical, proven IPM solutions to control existing invasive weed populations through effective land management practices, and a significant emphasis will be placed on early detection and rapid response. Education and outreach will also be provided to the general public, as well as to other organizations and agencies. The proposed management plan can be viewed at http://www.marincounty.org/depts/ag/weed-plan.

MARIN/SONOMA WEED MANAGEMENT AREA (MSWMA)

The Marin/Sonoma Weed Management Area (MSWMA) group includes representatives from federal, state, county and city agencies, private industry, and landowners. MSWMA’s goals include improving the effectiveness of local weed management efforts, increasing public awareness of invasive weeds, advancing responsible land stewardship practices, and working collaboratively with partner organizations by sharing resources and knowledge to manage and/or eradicate invasive weed populations. The MSWMA helps control weeds across land ownership boundaries by uniting landowners with public agencies and providing an opportunity to share resources in mapping and planning. Visit the Marin/Sonoma Weed Management Area website at http://marinsonomawma.blogspot.com/.

Some high priority invasive weeds are found on private lands. The Rapid Response/Bay Area Early Detection Network (http://baedn.org/) connects MSWMA with ranchers, farmers, and private landowners to help address these infestations, with the goal of eradicating them before they become too large.
The purpose of farmers’ markets is to allow local producers to sell their certified commodities directly to the public. 33 certified producers were issued Marin County certificates in 2013. The following 12 farmers’ markets have been certified by the Agricultural Commissioner to market local and regional produce in Marin County.

**CIVIC CENTER (SAN RAFAEL)**
- Thursdays 8:00 am – 1:00 pm
- Sundays 8:00 am – 1:00 pm
- Open All Year

**FAIRFAX**
- Perry Park, Downtown Fairfax
- Wednesdays 4:00– 8:00 pm
- May – December

**MILL VALLEY**
- E. Blithedale Ave. @ Ashford Dr.
- Fridays 9:30 am – 2:30 pm
- Open All Year

**ROSS VALLEY**
- Marin Art & Garden Center, Ross
- Thursdays 3:00 – 7:00 pm
- May – September

**CORTE MADERA**
- Corte Madera Town Center
- Wednesdays 12:00 – 5:00 pm
- Open All Year

**MARINWOOD COMMUNITY**
- Marinwood Plaza
- Saturdays 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
- Open All Year

**OLD TOWN NOVATO**
- Downtown, Novato
- Tuesdays 4:00 – 8:00 pm
- May – September

**SAUSALITO**
- Dunphy Park, Sausalito
- Sundays 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
- Open All Year

**DOWNTOWN SAN RAFAEL**
- Fourth Street, San Rafael
- Thursdays 6:00 – 9:00 pm
- April – September

**MARIN COUNTRY MART**
- Larkspur Landing Cir., Larkspur
- Saturdays 9:00 am – 2:00 PM
- Open All Year

**POINT REYES**
- Toby’s Feed Barn (11250 Hwy1)
- Point Reyes Station
- Saturdays 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
- June – November

**TAM VALLEY**
- Tennessee Valley Rd @ Marin Ave
- Tuesdays 3:00 – 7:00 pm
- May - November
WEIGHTS AND MEASURES PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Marin County Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures is mandated by state law to protect the interests of the buyer and seller in order to eliminate unfair business practices, unfair competition, and assure the integrity of everyday business transactions. The primary objective of weights and measures officials is that "Equity Prevails" in the marketplace. The Weights and Measures programs ensure honesty and integrity in commercial transactions when products are sold by weight, measure, count or time. This is accomplished through the continuous and systematic inspection of all equipment used to weigh or measure commodities. Weights and Measures inspectors test: taximeters, stores scales, gasoline pumps, fabric and cordage meters, electric meters, livestock and animal scales, vehicle scales, packaged products (for stated net contents) and barcode scanners (to ensure accurate product pricing). Overall, every transaction involving the exchange of goods by volume, count, or weight is affected in a vital way by some aspect of the Weights and Measures department’s program.

POINT-OF-SALE AND PRICE VERIFICATION

Our department routinely conducts inspections at approximately 411 different retail locations in Marin to verify that prices charged to consumers are the same as those posted or advertised. State law requires that the consumer be charged the lowest price posted, advertised, or quoted.

To help address the issue of inaccurate pricing, in conjunction with the Board of Supervisors, Marin Weights and Measures has revised the Point-of-Sale Registration ordinance in 2011 to allow our department to post consumer protection stickers at all retail locations that use a point-of-sale system. The stickers are designed to alert consumers that by law they are entitled to the lowest price posted or advertised. Department staff post the stickers at each point-of-sale location and customer service counter in all 411 retail locations currently being inspected.

Sample of consumer protection sticker:

ATTENTION CUSTOMERS
BY LAW, YOU ARE ENTITLED TO THE LOWEST ADVERTISED OR POSTED PRICE FOR ANY ITEM(S) OFFERED FOR SALE BY THIS STORE.

For information or to file a pricing complaint, contact Marin Weights & Measures: (415) 473-7888
www.marincounty.org/ag
IT IS UNLAWFUL TO REMOVE OR OBSCURE THIS NOTICE
COUNTY ORDINANCE §5.45.130
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